

February 13, 2003

Chairman Michael K. Powell  
Commissioner Kevin J. Martin  
Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy  
Commissioner Michael J. Copps  
Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: *Review of the Section 251 Unbundling Obligations of Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, CC Docket No. 01-338*

Dear Commissioners:

We the undersigned consumer organizations write to express our support for the approach to UNE issues summarized in the February 6 *ex parte* filing submitted by NARUC. We believe that this approach represents a reasonable framework for addressing the availability of unbundled network elements while preserving an environment that promotes competition and protects consumers.

The benefits that consumers are just now beginning to see in the telecommunications marketplace have come about largely due to the diligence of state utility regulators who, in recent years have worked hard to implement the 1996 Telecommunications Act. Our support of the NARUC framework emphasizes our view that the FCC should not restrict the ability of state regulators to fulfill their Congressionally assigned role of keeping local markets open and wholesale prices fair and reasonable. Working together the FCC and state regulators can protect and enhance competition for the benefit of consumers.

Sincerely,

Consumer Federation of America  
Consumers Union  
Media Access Project